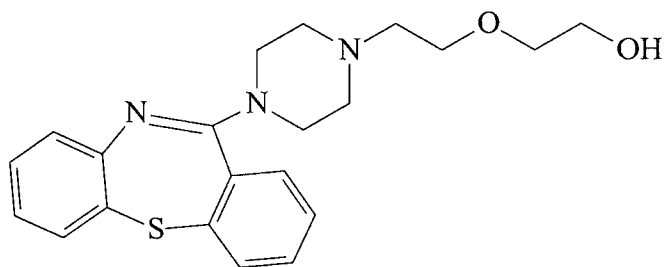


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

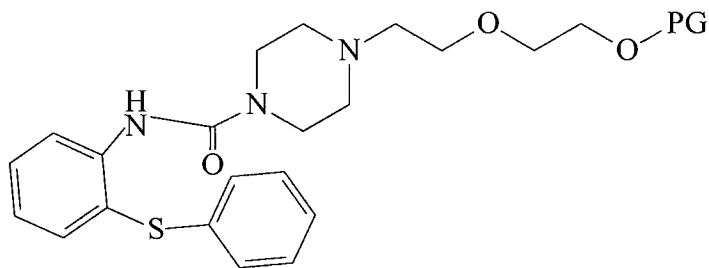
Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of the compound of formula I:



I

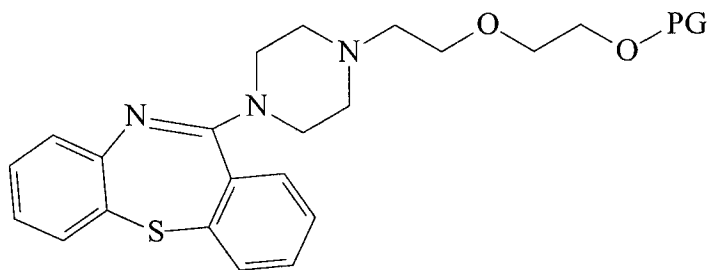
[[by]] said method comprising treating a compound of the ~~general~~ formula II:



II

wherein PG is a protective group,

with a ring closure agent to produce a compound of formula VII:

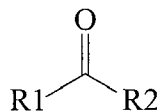


VII

and

removing the protective group to produce the compound of formula I.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein PG is benzoyl.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the ring closure agent is a mixture of phosphorus oxychloride and phosphorus pentoxide.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula II is prepared by reaction between 2-phenylsulfanylphenylamine, a compound of formula VI:



VI

wherein R1 and R2 may independently be halo, p-nitrophenyl, imidazolyl or -OR

wherein R is alkyl or aryl;

and either a) or b):

- a) 1-[2-(hydroxyethoxy)-ethyl]piperazine, whereby the protective group PG in formula II is subsequently attached;
- b) an O-protected derivative of 1-[2-(hydroxyethoxy)-ethyl]piperazine.

5. **(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)** 4-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-ethyl] -piperazine-carboxylic acid (2-phenylsulfanyl-phenyl)-amide.

6. **(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)** Benzoic acid 2- {2-[4-(2-phenylsulfanyl-phenylcarbamoyl)piperazin-1-yl]-ethoxy}-ethyl ester.

7. **(Withdrawn - Currently Amended)** Benzoic acid 2-[2-(4-dibenzo[b,f][1 ,4]-thiazepin-11-yl-piperazin-1-yl)-ethoxy]-ethyl ester.